

low incomes in their elder years, this is a tremendous boon to women's health and does what Americans want: helps those most who need the most help!

The bill also provides catastrophic protections to all. It assures that no senior need fear that cancer or another dread disease will consume their life savings and leave them destitute.

You've all been hearing from pharmacists. This bill recognizes the expertise of pharmacists more specifically and constructively than any legislation ever has. It requires that drug plans establish medication therapy management programs for patients with chronic health conditions. Pharmacists must be paid adequately to provide their services. Pharmacists must be involved in developing formularies.

Access to local pharmacies is encouraged, not discouraged. To encourage face-to-face visits, all drug plans must provide convenient access to a "bricks and mortar" pharmacy in their network, as defined by Medicare; all drug plans must offer a point-of-service option that allows beneficiaries to go to any pharmacy they desire (for an additional charge); and no mail-order only plans are permitted.

Second, this bill provides better access to preventive health care by offering an annual physical on entry into Medicare, cholesterol screenings, and new choices in Medigap plans that have no co-payment for preventive care. In addition, the bill revitalizes Medicare+Choice plans that have the flexibility to cover far more preventive services than traditional Medicare, from simple, useful annual physicals to disease management programs.

Third, by strengthening the Medicare+Choice plans so that they can once again grow, this bill prepares Medicare to meet the growing challenge of helping seniors manage chronic illness—to dramatically improve their health and quality of life and manage their health care costs. As the majority of our seniors have multiple chronic illnesses and the M+C plans alone have the technology to offer disease management, this alternative must be available to seniors nationwide. Acute care coverage is simply no longer enough.

Fourth, passage of this bill will reduce medication errors that are causing injury and death, because it requires adoption of computerized prescription ordering that will flag drug interactions and provide health care professionals better quality data to improve clinical care.

Fifth, it will enable Medicare to compensate provider more realistically and fairly. Without action, Medicare will continue to follow the path of Medicaid, undermining both the quality of our health care system and access to services by underpaying providers and driving them out of serving our seniors.

Last, this bill will enable Medicare services to be delivered more efficiently and cost-effectively. At long last, in fact for the first time in Medicare's history, this bill will radically reform the bureaucracy that has grown substantially as our laws and payment structures have exploded in number and complexity. In fact, the Medicare bureaucracy is in crisis.

Medicare is governed by over 125,000 pages of regulations—more than the IRS regulations for the entire tax system. The error rate in carriers answering basic questions from physicians was 85%, dwarfing the problems at IRS. This problem is so great that it threatens

to force small providers out of Medicare, be they physician practices, small visiting nurse providers, small nursing homes, or small hospitals. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand the impact of such a consequence on rural America or our urban neighborhoods.

So while the words "regulatory reform" don't have the power over seniors' attention that "prescription drugs" have, in the long run they are equally important.

This is a good, solid, balanced bill. It modernizes Medicare to meet the future. It provides prescription drugs as an entitlement to all seniors under Medicare. It provides total benefits to those on Medicaid and—with states—will provide such total coverage to seniors under 175% of the poverty level, 44% of the population over 65. And for all others, this bill provides deep discounts, generous subsidies, and the peace of mind of catastrophic protection against high-cost drugs.

#### CONGRATULATING CORPORAL TOM PENUEL AND AGENT FIRST CLASS DREW AYDELOTTE FOR HEROISM IN RESCUING THREE BOATERS FROM DROWNING

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2002*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate two employees of the Delaware Fish and Wildlife Division for their heroic rescue on Sunday, June 30, 2002 of three boaters whose boat sunk in the Delaware Bay. Corporal Tom Penuel and Agent First Class Drew Aydelotte rescued Richard and Beth Owens and their friend, Beth Mariani, who were stranded in Delaware Bay for an hour after their boat sunk.

Mr. and Mrs. Owens and Ms. Mariani had been returning in a 17-foot Grady White boat from a fishing trip and stopped to check two crab pots a half-mile from Kitts Hummock. At that time, a wave crashed over the bow and filled up a live-bait well. Within 30 seconds, the boat sunk to the bottom of the Delaware Bay. Through quick thinking they were able to radio for help before the boat was lost. The Fish and Wildlife officers were dispatched from Bowers Beach 15 minutes later. This quick action was essential because as the boaters started to paddle toward shore on a boat seat, the seat became waterlogged and also sunk. Corporal Penuel and Agent First Class Aydelotte found them 1 hour later floating in the Delaware Bay a half-mile offshore. These two officers deserve our utmost gratitude and respect for their courageous efforts. Mr. and Mrs. Owens and Ms. Mariani also deserve recognition for their quick thinking and tremendous courage in surviving this tragic event. I wish them a full and speedy recovery.

Corporal Tom Penuel and Agent First Class Drew Aydelotte of the Delaware Fish and Wildlife Division serve as role models of dedication for all officials, not only in Delaware, but throughout the country. I commend them for their immense bravery in executing their life-saving training.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM F. GUNN, JR.

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2002*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my fellow South Carolinian, Dr. William F. Gunn, Jr. Dr. Gunn is a graduate of Morehouse College, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education. He then continued his educational quest for knowledge at Indiana University receiving a Masters in Physical Education, and later a Doctorate in Education Administration at the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Gunn began his South Carolina teaching experience at Benedict College in Columbia in 1964, where he remained until 1999, when he retired as Professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and the Chair of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department. While at Benedict his commitment to the school extended out of the classroom onto the athletic field as coach of the tennis, cross-country, and soccer teams throughout the years.

Dr. Gunn is also a member of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the American Association of University Professors, Phi Delta Kappa, the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations, and the South Carolina Parks Recreation Association. Dr. Gunn is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He has also served as Chairman of the Saint Luke's Center Community Council, the Ethnic Minorities Committee for South Carolina Association of Health, Physical Education and dance, and the South Carolina Governor's Council on Physical Fitness from 1984–1987. Additionally, he has served on the United Black Fund of Midlands Board of Directors, and on the Richland County Board of the Tuberculosis Association.

Dr. Gunn's many accomplishments include being recipient of a United Negro College Fund Study Grant, 1972; University Year Academic Grant, 1976, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 1976–1977, named Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity "Man of the Year" for South Carolina by the Ethnic Minorities Committee, 1985; and the recipient of a ten, fifteen, twenty, and thirty year awards for excellence in teaching from Benedict College.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gunn has also written and published numerous papers and books on community health related projects, the Health profession, and African American Education/Group Leadership. Some of his more notable publications include the Hip-Hop Culture: A Suggested Leisure Counseling Model for Young Clients," 1998; "Leisure and Spiritual Well-Being: Vital for Maximizing Human Potential," 1999; and "Healing the Body and Mind Through Cosmic Rhythms in Music and Dance," 2002.

Mr. Speaker. I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring Dr. William F. Gunn, Jr., a man who's contributions to his community and the educational system will leave lasting impressions on the numerous lives he has touched. I wish him continued success and Godspeed!